Mum, tell me a story

THE CLEVER FISH & OTHER STORIES

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The Turtle And The Fox

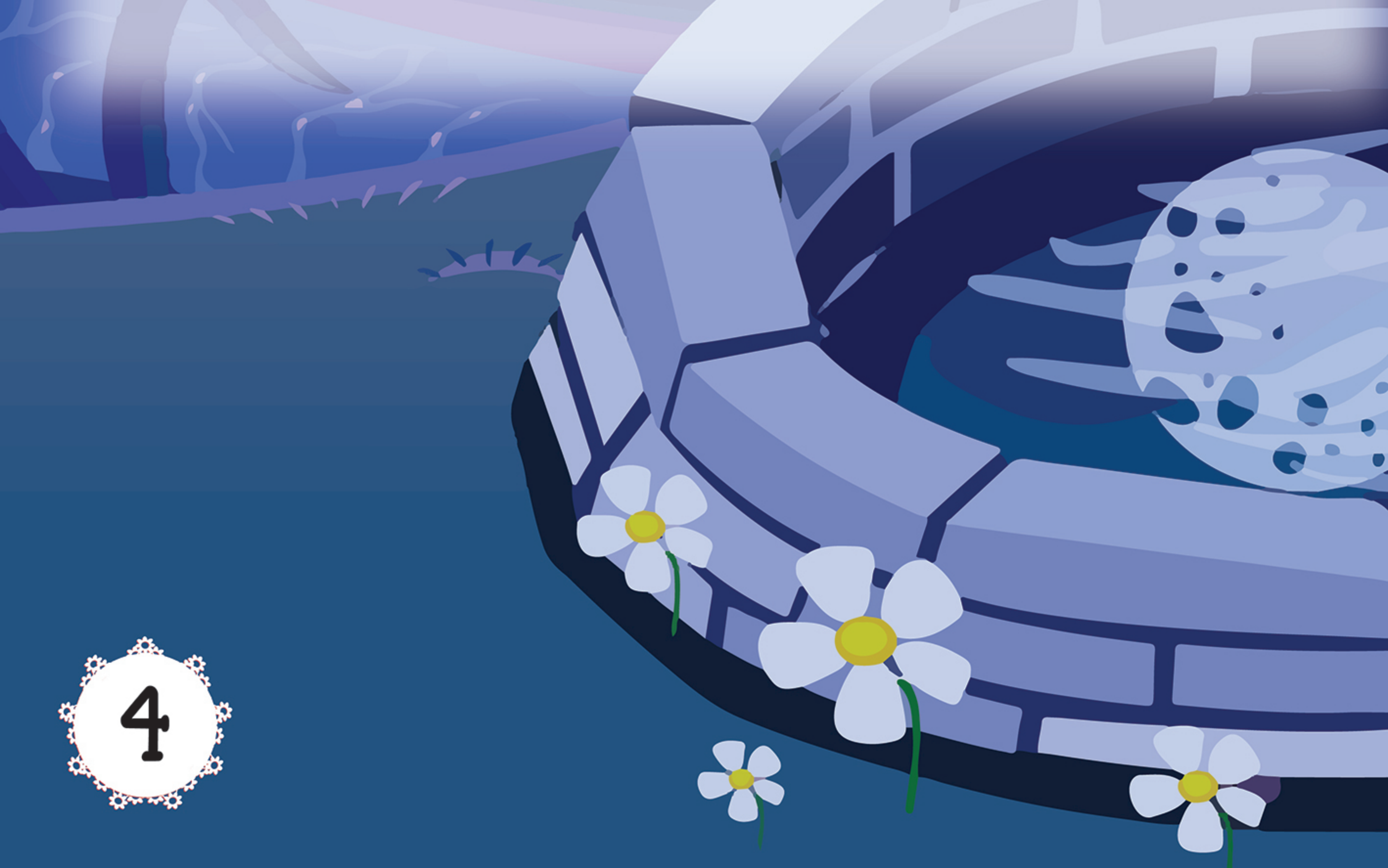
The fox was walking alone in the forest. He saw the animals together and tried to befriend them but they refused except the turtle. She accepted his friendship and she didn't pay attention to the warning of the rest of the animals who told her that the fox was cunning. One day, the fox looked for food but he didn't find anything to hunt. He came back to the turtle. When he saw her, his mouth watered and he thought of eating her. The turtle knew what he was thinking of and she thought of a trick to get rid of him. She told him that she was ready to make him eat her. The fox was very happy. He opened his mouth and held the turtle between his teeth. The turtle, quickly, hid herself inside her shell. The fox tried to chew her but all his teeth were broken. The fox cried and threw the turtle away. The turtle went away and left the fox alone crying from pain.



The Rabbits And The Fox

The fox used to come to the rabbits land to steal one of them and eat it.

The rabbits were frightened. They escaped quickly and hid in their burrows. The rabbits were fed up with the fox and thought of a trick to get rid of him. A fat rabbit stood on the edge of the deep well near the rabbits land. When the fox came, he saw the rabbit standing still quietly. He was very happy. He jumped OVER the rabbit. The rabbit jumped away. The fox looked in the well; he saw the image of the bright moon. He thought that the rabbit had jumped into the well. The fox jumped into the water to eat the rabbit but he drowned. The clever rabbits were able to get rid of the sly fox and they lived happily ever after.





The Clever Fish

The sea gull was flying over the sea looking for food. He saw a small fish swimming alone. He followed her for a long distance then he attacked her. He picked her up with his peak. The fish was frightened. She kept crying and begging him to leave her. The sea gull didn't pay any attention to her and took her away. The fish thought quickly. She, then, pointed to the shadow of a school of fish swimming in the water. She told the sea gull that she had a big family and she wanted to go and tell them goodbye. The sea gull was greedy and he wanted to get more fish. He came near the water Surface. He saw a big fish. He opened his mouth to pick it. Quickly, the small fish jumped out of his mouth and escaped with the rest of the fish. The sea gull couldn't catch any fish.





The White Crow

The crow was living happily with his family. One day, he saw a flock of pelicans. The crow admired the white color of the pelicans. He looked at himself and wished to have white feathers like the pelicans. He thought for some time then he flew away. He reached a house where there was a bucket of white paint on its roof. The crow was very happy and he threw himself into the bucket. The bucket was too small for him so only half of its body became white. The crow flew away with half of his body white and the other half black. The crow came near the pelicans to live among them but they made fun of him and kicked him out because he looked very strange. He went back to the crows but they didn't accept him among them, as well.The crow lived alone half black and half white.





The Country Woman And The Egg Basket

Every day, the country woman collected the eggs and went to the market to sell them. She, then, returned back to her house and told her neighbours that the eggs went bad. Her neighbors pitied her and gave her money. Her greed increased and she told her neighbors that her hens died to get more money. Every day she collected the eggs until she had a basket full of eggs. One day she covered this basket and went out to the market. Whenever anyone asked her what she had, she told them that it was an empty basket.

She was looking around her so that no one would see her and know what she was carrying. Suddenly, she stumbled and the basket fell off her hand. The eggs were all broken. Her neighbors found out her deceit and became angry with her. They asked her from where she had got the eggs and all her hens had died.

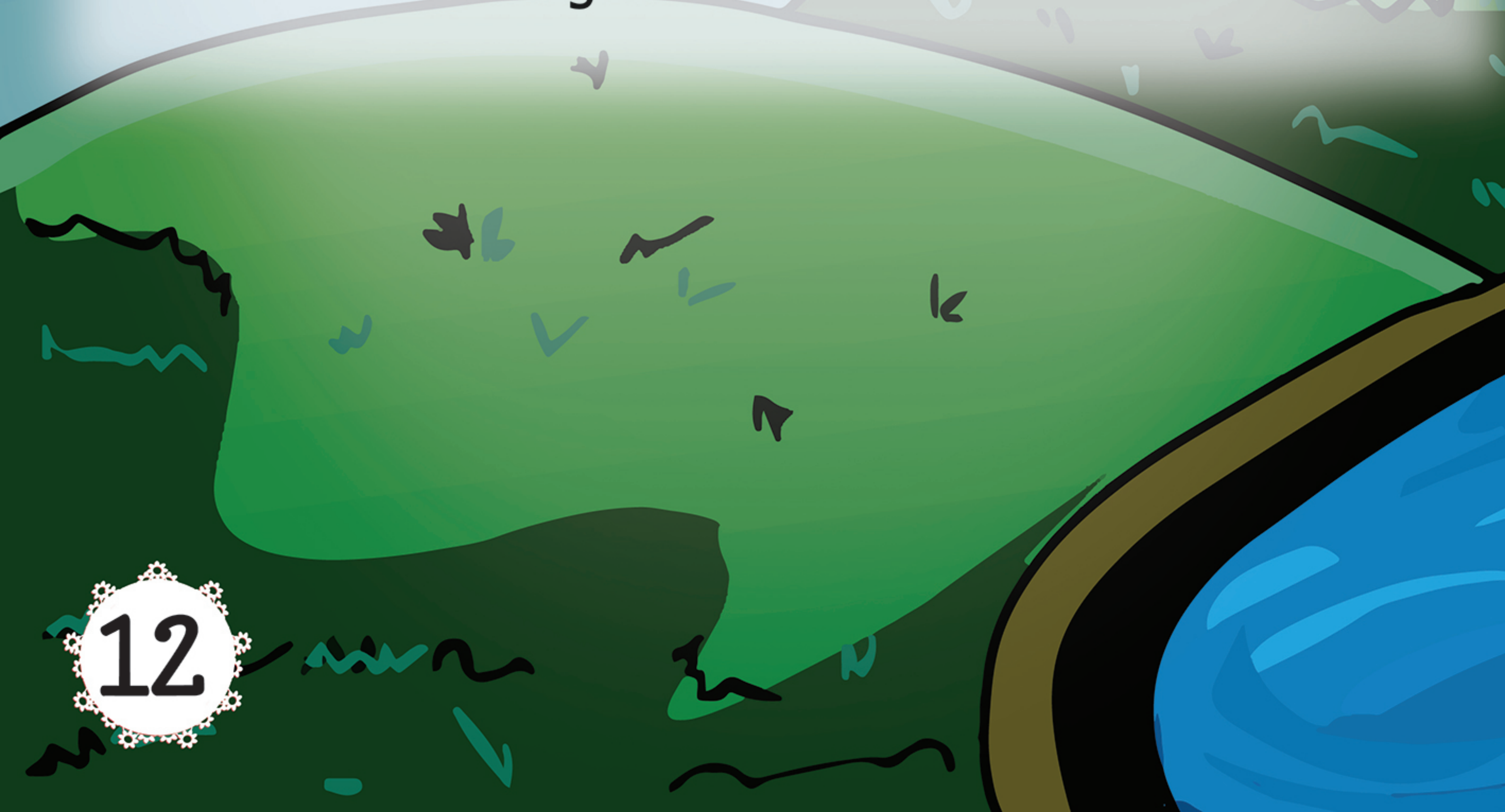
She became ashamed of herself and she never lied again.





The Cat And The Moon

The cat was very selfish and vain. She was always boasting about her beauty among the other animals. One day, while the cat was walking in the forest, she felt thirsty. She came near the lake to drink. She looked in the water to see her image vainly. But the cat saw the image of the moon. It was a full moon. Its light was spreading all over the forest. The cat was very jealous. She held out her hand to move the image of the moon aside. The water moved. The image of the moon shook but didn't move aside. The cat thought that the moon was teasing her. She kept hitting the water angrily until she slipped into the lake. She was about to drown. She cried out. The animals heard her and they came to save her. The cat was very ashamed of herself and she thanked them. She was never vain again.





The Greedy Bee

The bees came out of their hive looking for food. They found a beautiful garden full of coloured flowers. The bees landed over the flowers to smell them and take up their nector.. Among them, there was a greedy bee. She wanted to enjoy the flowers alone. She thought for some time then she flew away crying and warning the bees that the flowers were poisonous. The bees were frightened and they flew away looking for another garden. The greedy bee remained alone. She flew from one flower to another smelling them and taking up their nector. Sudddenly, the bee saw a beautiful flower with bright colours. The bee went quickly to the flower and flew down inside the flower which folded its leaves over the bee and caught her inside.The bee cried but the bees were too far to hear her. The bee felt sorry for her greed that brought her to the trap.





Glossary

The turtle and the fox:

The turtle's shell: The solid Dome like part of the turtle's body. It covers the back of the turtle to protect its tiny body.

The rabbits and the fox:

Burrow: a narrow and small hole dug in the ground or the mountain by an animal such as the fox, the rat or the rabbit to live in.

The clever fish:

School of fish: a big number of fish.

The white crow

Bucket: a pot with a handle made of metal or plastic in which we put things.

Pelican: a big white bird that lives near water.

The country woman and the egg basket:

Basket: a light container often with a handle which made of palms leaves or thin strips of wood or plastic woven together and is used for carrying or storing fruits, vegetables or eggs.

The cat and the moon:

Vain: a vain person is someone who admires himself/ herself very much and thinks that he/she is better than the others.

Full moon: The moon when it appears in the sky as a full lighted circle.

The greedy bee:

Hive: The house of the bee, bees live and store their honey in it. The bees build it by themselves from wax.

Nectar: the sweet liquid inside the flower.